

young girls to play softball. Both Chase and Jeremee also have given generously of their time in volunteer service at local hospitals.

As Presidential Scholars, Chase and Jeremee will be invited to Washington, DC, along with their families and their most influential teachers, to participate in a variety of activities including panel discussions and a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

I would like to take a moment to recognize Chase and Jeremee's influential teachers: Ms. Kathleen Small and Ms. Karen E. Cox. As someone whose own life was transformed by education, I know first hand the value of good teachers and mentors like Ms. Small and Ms. Cox. Their commitment to Chase and Jeremee's education, and to the education of all their students, is truly commendable.

The State of Nevada can take great pride in Chase and Jeremee's accomplishments. They have tremendous potential, and we all expect great things from them. Please join me in congratulating Jeremee and Chase on their impressive accomplishments.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today I speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On May 26, 2001, in Manteca, CA, Linell Reese was charged with a hate crime for allegedly attacking a man while yelling antigay epithets.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST MICHAEL J. WIESEMANN

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man who went to high school in North Judson, IN. SP Michael J. Wiesemann, 20 years old, died at the Forward Operating Base Q-West, Quayyrah Air Base, Iraq, on May 29, 2004.

Michael graduated from North Judson-San Pierre High School in 2002 and joined the Army as a steppingstone to college and a better life, according to his mother. After joining the Army, Michael became a cavalry scout and was assigned to the Army's 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, out of Fort

Lewis, WA. With his entire life before him, Michael chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Michael was the 28th Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother, Karen; his stepfather, Robert; and his fiancée, Abby Trusty, whom he met in high school.

Today, I join Michael's family, his friends, and the entire North Judson community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over his death, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. During his dedicated military service, Michael earned the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and an Expeditionary Medal. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Michael, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

When looking back on the life of her former student, Michael's high school English teacher, Carolyn Wyller told the Indianapolis Star that Michael "was artistic and had a good sense of humor." Family and friends say Michael was known for his love of laughter and his big heart. Today and always, Michael will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Michael's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Michael's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Michael J. Wiesemann in the official Record of the Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Michael's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Michael.

IMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I have never supported a bill that would allow for the importation of prescription drugs—until today.

I have decided to cosponsor Senator GREGG's bill to permit the carefully regulated importation of drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The bill also would regulate the dispensing of medications by Internet pharmacies and strengthen the laws and regulations that protect Americans from the dangers of counterfeit drugs.

I have long opposed drug importation on the grounds that current laws, regulations, and practices are insufficient to allow for the safe opening of our currently closed drug distribution system. I have said that I could not support any plan to legalize drug importation that does not ensure that the drugs that are imported are safe, effective, and will not compromise the integrity of our Nation's prescription drug supply or our world-leading pharmaceutical research.

With that in mind, Senator GREGG's bill is the first piece of legislation I have seen that would craft an importation system with the appropriate safeguards and limitations necessary to protect the public health. Senator GREGG's bill would allow importation of FDA-approved drugs manufactured in FDA-inspected facilities only. His bill would permit the importation of drugs from Canada only, with the possibility that the FDA could approve importation from other countries in the future. His bill would also provide additional tools and resources for the FDA to use to protect American citizens from tainted or counterfeit drugs, and from scam artists selling medications on the Internet.

Senator GREGG has introduced a strong bill that addresses my concerns about the safety of drug importation and Internet pharmacies, and it's the only bill I've yet seen that I could support.

My main outstanding concern is that Senator GREGG's bill does not address the liability that sellers, distributors, and manufacturers of prescription drugs may face even under a regulated system of drug importation.

Our jurisdiction over foreign companies or individuals in the chain of drug distribution is limited at best. Irresponsible actions on their part could put responsible American companies and individuals at risk of substantial monetary liability. Without liability protection, American companies and individuals may choose not to participate in drug importation, which would defeat the purpose of enacting this legislation in the first place.

As this legislation moves in the Senate, I look forward to working with Senator GREGG, the other cosponsors of his bill, and other interested Members to address these concerns through sensible liability protections for sellers,